

## Who Was Martin Luther King Jr.?

Each year on the third Monday of January, Americans celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King Junior. This year that falls on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Martin Luther King Jr. was a civil rights leader. People remember what he did each year on his birthday.



Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia on January 15, 1929 into a family of pastors. King came of age in a time where blacks and whites were separated in much of the United States. Blacks were not allowed to go to the same schools as whites, drink from the same water fountains or eat in the same restaurants. Martin Luther King Jr. also wanted to become a pastor. He wanted to end the separation and tell people that everyone is equal. He started to fight against this segregation. Once he said that no blacks should go on public buses because they were not allowed to sit on the good seats. Blacks didn't use public buses for a year. After this protest, blacks were allowed to sit everywhere on the bus.

Martin Luther King Jr. gave many speeches, wrote books and organized protests. For the protests he often had to go to prison. His most famous speech was in 1963 and is called the "I have a Dream" speech. His dream was that one day his children won't have to be separated from white people. Five years later, at 39 years old, he was killed.

### Are these statements true or false?

- Martin Luther King Day is celebrated every year
- Martin Luther King Jr. was a farmer
- Martin Luther King Jr. went to school with white children
- Martin Luther King Jr. had to go to prison
- Martin Luther King Jr. didn't have any children
- Martin Luther King Jr. died very young

true	false

- 1) What was the situation that made Martin unhappy?
- 2) What were the differences between black people and white people?
- 3) What did he believe in?
- 4) What did he want for his children?

# Segregation in the USA and Martin Luther King

Listen and complete the speech.

Date: ..... Place: .....

I have a dream that ..... this..... will rise up and .....out the true meaning of its creed (principles). We hold these truths to be self-evident that all ..... are .....

I have a dream that one day out in the red hills of Georgia the ..... of former ..... and the ..... of former ..... owners will be able to sit down ..... at the table of .....

I have a dream that one day even the state of ....., a state sweltering with the heat of ....., sweltering with the heat of .....will be transformed into an oasis of ..... and .....

I have a dream that my four little ..... will one day live in a ..... where they will not be judged by the ..... of their ..... but by their content of their .....

I have a dream ..... !

I have a dream that one day down in ....., with its vicious ....., with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification; that one day right down in Alabama little ..... and ..... will be able to join ..... with little ..... and ..... as ..... and .....

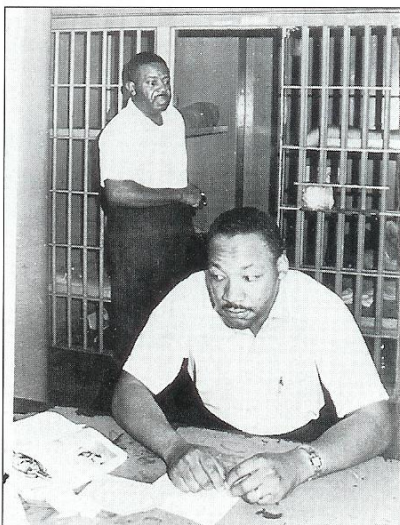
I have a dream ..... !

## MONTGOMERY: HOME TO ROSA PARKS

On December 1<sup>st</sup> 1955, Rosa Parks, an African-American, refused to obey the law and give up her seat to a white man on a bus. The police were called and she was arrested. Martin Luther King Jr, the non-violent Civil Rights leader, took up the protest and asked the black community to boycott the buses.

For a whole year, the African-Americans in Montgomery walked, cycled and pooled cars, but not one of them took a bus.

The bus company almost went bankrupt. But on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1956, buses in Alabama were desegregated. Non-violence had triumphed.



## THE BIRMINGHAM MARCHES

In March 1963 Martin Luther King lead sit-ins and marches to force the city to desegregate.

In May, the local police used fire hoses and dogs against the marchers, many of whom were children. King was arrested and jailed. During his time in prison, he wrote his famous "Letter from Birmingham City Jail" in which he explains his non-violent philosophy.

In September 1963, the Klu Klux Klan, a secret organization of white extremists, bombed a Baptist church, killing four girls. This murderous act shocked the nation. More than 8,000 mourners, black and white, attended the funeral service.

**Complete about the Civil rights Movement.**

1955: .....

.....

1956: .....

.....

March 1963:

.....

.....

September 1963:

.....

.....

**Write down if the phrases below express the idea of obligation (O) or capacity (I).**

☐ She will be able to go shopping tomorrow.

☐ She must go shopping on Saturdays.

☐ I'll have to go shopping next weekend

☐ She had to go shopping last night.

☐ I couldn't go shopping yesterday.

☐ She can go shopping after work every day.

**Complete:**

In the 1950's, black people ..... give up their seats to white people.

Black people ..... vote in the 1950's.

"One day, little black boys and black girls ..... join hands with little white boys and white girls."

Black people ..... vote today.

In the US, children ..... listen to M.L King's speech on his birthday.

People ..... vote next fall.